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# Assembly California Legislature



**JERRY HILL**  
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August 3, 2010

Jim Wunderman  
President and CEO, Bay Area Council  
201 California St, Suite 1450  
San Francisco, California 94111

Dear President Wunderman:

I received your correspondence regarding the Peninsula Cities Consortium (PCC) and frankly I was disappointed in your perception of the issues. You assert that the PCC advocates obstructionist policies that pose a grave danger to our state, and that is not so. You reinforce the perception that supporters of high-speed rail believe in the project at any cost, no matter the consequences, and that there is no room for discussion on any point, and that is not the case. Your characterizations do not contribute to consensus and progress.

I have attended a recent PCC meeting and have reviewed reports of PCC activities. It is clear to me that most Peninsula cities along the Caltrain corridor are struggling to overcome a steep learning curve with limited staff and financial resources.

The initial outreach efforts of the High-Speed Rail Authority did not provide the Peninsula cities sufficient explanation and resources to understand what high-speed rail might mean to their communities. Some Peninsula residents began to see high-speed rail as a runaway train engineered by an unresponsive, heavy-handed government, intent on utilizing eminent domain to scar the local landscape with a misbegotten public works project. (The Embarcadero Freeway comes to mind.) That perception is incorrect and unfortunate.

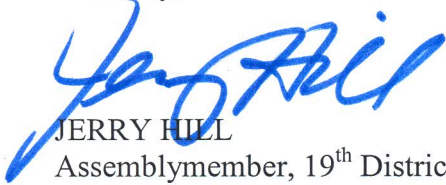
The PCC has sought input from all sides of the discussion in its efforts to grapple with these issues and others. The PCC has heard from opponents of the project as well as staunch advocates for high-speed rail. The goal is to unify the community and avoid a schism.

I believe that high-speed rail with a fully grade-separated Caltrain system would be of immense benefit to the Peninsula and the state of California. I think most Peninsula residents share that view.

Jim, this project is not all or nothing – a choice between protecting local interests or serving the greater good. This is a major venture to address future needs. It is true that there are real considerations, such as ridership projections and fare revenues. We cannot be dismissive of legitimate concerns from effected communities. A public works project this massive should be done right – with careful planning and close attention paid to the concerns of those whose lives will be affected by this development.

All of us must consider and understand the concerns of Peninsula residents and businesses. The PCC and its member cities and each of the cities along the Caltrain corridor, have raised issues that must be considered and resolved, and we serve them best when we engage with them in an open discussion.

Sincerely,



JERRY HILL

Assemblymember, 19<sup>th</sup> District

cc: Mayor Cathy Baylock and Councilmembers, City of Burlingame  
Mayor Patrick Burt and Councilmembers, City of Palo Alto  
Mayor Richard Cline and Councilmembers, City of Menlo Park  
Mayor Kathy McKeithen and Councilmembers, Town of Atherton  
Mayor Christine Wozniak and Councilmembers, City of Belmont  
Board of Supervisors, County of Santa Clara  
Board of Supervisors, County of San Mateo